

## CHAPTER

### X. 1815.

Interview with Lavallette — Proceedings in the French Chambers— Second abdication of Napoleon — He retires to Kochefort, negotiates with Captain Maitland, and finally embarks in the *JBellerophon*.

ONE of the first public men to see Napoleon after his return from Waterloo was Lavallette. "I flew/<sup>3</sup> says he, "to the Elysee to see the Emperor: he summoned me into his closet, and as soon as he saw me, he came to meet me with a frightful epileptic laugh. ' Oh, my God!' he said, raising his eyes to heaven, and walking two or three times up and down the room. This appearance of despair was however very short. He soon recovered his coolness, and asked me what was going forward in the Chamber of Representatives. I could not attempt to hide that party spirit was there carried to a high pitch, and that the majority seemed determined to require his abdication, and to pronounce it themselves if he did not concede willingly. ' How is that ? ' he said. ' *If* proper measures are not taken the enemy will be before the gates of Paris in eight days. Alas *I*' he added, 'have I accustomed them to such great victories that they know not how to bear *one day's misfortune* ? What will become of poor France ? I have done all I could for her!<sup>3</sup> He then heaved a deep sigh. Somebody asked to speak to him, and I left him, with a direction to come back at a later hour.

" I passed the day in seeking information among all my friends and acquaintances. I found in all of them either the greatest dejection or an extravagant joy, which they disguised by feigned alarm and pity for myself, which I repulsed with great indignation. Nothing favorable was to be expected .from the Chamber of Representatives. They all said they wished for liberty, but, between two enemies who appeared